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## Personalized Pillows

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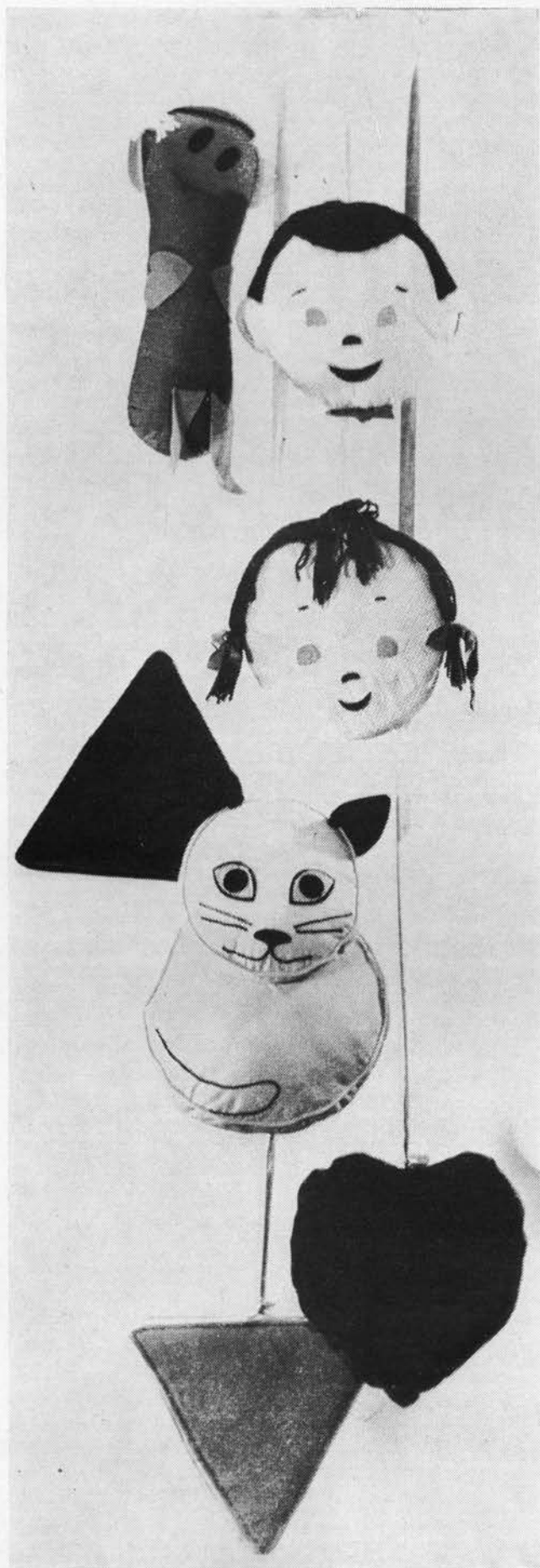
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# Give A Personalized

by *Diane Rasmussen*  
*Home Economics Junior*

**A** POT OF GOLD at the end of the rainbow, a pillow can be that special gift for which you're always looking and seldom find. Using a 98-cent bag of foam rubber bits as your pot of gold and a sturdy fabric of any color of the rainbow, you will find no limit to the personality you can give to a pillow.

The design of the pillow determines the size and shape you cut your fabric, so first create a design expressing HER personality.

Special interests make good themes for your pillows. Do a caricature of the girl or her boyfriend. Design a pillow like a wedge of pie for a Food and Nutrition major or create a huge puffy pin cushion for a Textiles and Clothing major.

Getting tired of sitting on the floor for that nightly bridge hand? Four pillows in the shapes of a diamond, heart, spade, and club would surely bring luck as well as comfort!

A round-faced clock is a constant reminder of the time that slips by so quickly, while a big watermelon slice adds a touch of summer to a winter-weary room. The sign craze also has been adapted as a conversation piece in the form of big red and white octagonal pillows with "Stop" or a slender arrow with a "No parking" warning.

## Use Organizations as Theme

Organizations and activities offer a wide area for originality. Matching fraternity and sorority pins for a pinned friend were designed by one enterprising pillow maker. She even chained them together with gold braid. Organization symbols, animals, flowers, crests and mottos also can provide cherished and attractive designs.

Functional pillows are being manufactured to prop up nodding heads during study hours. This design can be personalized with an applied design or by using the shape as the body of an animal for decorating.

Techniques can be very simple. The name of a girl can be pasted on in felt letters of contrasting color or texture. If you're especially needle-hand, embroider these on. Faces can be applied in a number of ways; buttons serve as excellent eyes while a few bristles of a broom can make your pillow the "cat's

# Easy-to-make Pillow

meow." You can create other effects with ink sketching on the fabric or pasted or sewn appliques.

## Construction is Varied

Almost anything goes in the construction of these pillows. Most people prefer an easily washable and sturdy fabric, so you may wish to make a zipper-closing for easy removal. A basic form can be made by cutting two sides of the same shape and placing the right sides together for stitching. In the same step when you stitch the sides, you can add piping or ruffles. If using complicated shapes of your own design, you may find it profitable to experiment with a piece of muslin.

## Select Stuffing Material

There are several possibilities for stuffing materials. Old nylon stockings make soft comfortable pillows and have the advantage of being washable. Kapok, a good material to use for people allergic to feathers, has high bulk and will not sift. Foam rubber bits can be purchased at most department and dry goods stores; to keep the springy bits under control use a wide mouthed funnel to guide them into the hole you have left in the seam. And, of course, you can use no stuffing at all but leave a hole in the back or side in which to store pajamas during the day.

Old feather bed pillows can also be used, but since most of these are too large for decorative pillows they will need a little doctoring. Try this simple method to keep from scattering feathers all over the room. Grasp the pillow at the center and shake approximately half the feathers into each end. Then stitch a double seam down the center of the pillow, and cut between the stitching, making two equal-sized pillows. You may need to strengthen the seam with binding or double stitching as hard wear could weaken the single row.

Don't forget that while these pillows are most frequently used as decorative notes on the bed, they serve very comfortably with small ties on a hard study chair. You may wish to make an extra seating place for your room by painting a can or barrel of the proper size and fitting on a decorative pillow as a cushion.

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